Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-9   (canceled)

10.   (new) A method for aggregating incoming packets into optical bursts in an edge node of an Optical Burst Switch Network, comprising:

storing the incoming packets to generate an optical burst;

associating each incoming packet with a generated random binary digit with a probability for a first and a second value of the binary digit; and

sending the optical burst with the aggregated packets when a transition is indicated,

wherein the a binary digit having the first value indicates the transition between optical bursts,

whereby a lower blocking probability in the optical switches is provided, and

whereby the lower blocking probability can be calculated with an Erlang-B formula, thus providing predictability of the throughput.

11.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the transition is a beginning of a new optical burst.

12.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the transition is an end of the new optical burst.

13.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the optical burst is sent through the Optical Burst Switched Network.

14.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the random binary digit is generated according to a Bernoulli probability distribution.

15.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein IP packets are used as incoming packets.

16.   (new) A method for aggregating incoming packets into optical bursts in an edge node of an Optical Burst Switched Network,

storing the incoming packets to generate an optical burst;

generating a random binary digit with a probability for a first and a second value of the binary digit; and

sending the optical burst when the random binary digit is a first value,

whereby a lower blocking probability in the optical switches is provided, and

whereby the lower blocking probability can be calculated with an Erlang-B formula, thus providing predictability of the throughput.

17.   (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein the optical burst is sent through the Optical Burst Switched Network.

18.   (new) The method according to claim 10, wherein the random binary digit is generated according to a Bernoulli probability distribution.

19.   (new) The method according to claim 16, wherein IP packets are used as incoming packets.

20.   (new) An edge node apparatus for an Optical Burst Switched Network for aggregating incoming packets into optical bursts, comprising:

a buffer to accumulate the incoming packets as an optical burst; and

a random generator to generate a binary digit with a probability for a first and second value of the binary digit, such that each incoming packet is associated with a generated binary digit,

wherein the first value indicates a transition between optical bursts,

wherein the optical burst with the aggregated packets is send when a transition is indicated,

whereby a lower blocking probability in the optical switches is provided, and

whereby the lower blocking probability can be calculated with an Erlang-B formula, thus providing predictability of the throughput.

21.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein binary digit is generated according to a Bernoulli probability distribution.